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TAGS: SOPN, PINT, KS, US
SUBJ: KOREAN PRESS CONTINUES REPORTING ON PAK TONG-SON
REF: A) SEOUL 7664 (100453Z SEP 77), B) STATE 217531 (101638Z SEP 77)

Edgar Kelly, Jr
Aug. 20, 1984

SUMMARY: DESPITE DAY OFF, COVERAGE OF PAK AFFAIR REACHED PEAK OVER WEEKEND, WITH FRONT-PAGE ARTICLES COVERING PAK'S THIRD INTERROGATION, OPEN EXPRESSION OF ROKG DISSATISFACTION WITH US HANDLING OF INDICTMENT, AND DELAY OF SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS OF COMPENSATORY MEASURES BILL. IN MOST NOVEL WEEKEND DEVELOPMENT, TEXT OF INDICTMENT WAS CARRIED IN ALL PAPERS. END SUMMARY.

1. OVER WEEKEND (SEPTEMBER 10-11), KOREAN VERNACULAR PRESS CONTINUED MAJOR COVERAGE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN PAK TONG-SON CASE, COVERING ON FRONT PAGES HIS THIRD APPEARANCE AT SEOUL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, STATEMENTS BY ROKG REVEALING ITS DISSATISFACTION WITH EVENTS AND US DECISION TO DELAY SUBMISSION OF BILL FOR CERTAIN MEASURES TO COMPENSATE FOR US GROUND TROOP WITH-

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DRAWAL.

2. STORIES IN BOTH MORNING PAPERS SEPTEMBER 11 INDICATED PAK TONG-SON HAD BEEN QUESTIONED SEPTEMBER 10 FOR THIRD TIME FOR ONE-HALF HOUR AT PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE ON HIS RELATIONS WITH HOUSE SPEAKER O'NEILL, ON BASIS OF TESTIMONY SUZI PARK THOMSON HAD GIVEN HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE ON AUGUST 25. IN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AFTERWARDS WITH REPORTERS, PAK WAS QUOTED AS DENYING HE HAD HAD A "DEEP RELATIONSHIP" WITH O'NEILL AND CALLING FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS TO THAT EFFECT "GROUNDLESS." PAK SAID HE HAD MET SUZI PARK THOMSON ONLY A FEW TIMES AT MEETINGS OF KOREANS (IN AMERICA) AND DID NOT KNOW HER WELL. PAK ALSO SAID HE HOPED THAT RAPID INVESTIGATION AND CLARIFICATION OF HIS "MISREPRESENTED" RELATIONS WITH SPEAKER O'NEILL WOULD PROVIDE LATTER RELIEF FROM SEVERE ATTACKS IN PRESS.

3. IN MOST NOVEL WEEKEND DEVELOPMENT, ALL PAPERS

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SEPTEMBER 10-11 RAN ON INSIDE PAGES IDENTICAL FULL-PAGE SPREADS OF FULL TEXT OF INDICTMENT, AS RELEASED BY ROKG. COMMENTS IN ACCOMPANYING ARTICLES OF ANALYSIS UNIFORMLY CRITICIZED US FOR HIGH-HANDEDNESS TOWARD A SMALL AND WEAK COUNTRY. FRONT-PAGE COMMENTARY BY YI YONG-DOK IN INDEPENDENT, CONSERVATIVE CHOSON ILBO QUOTING STRONG LANGUAGE OF AN UNNAMED "GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL," ATTACKED INDICTMENT AS AN EXAGGERATED ONE LACKING THE DETAIL NECESSARY TO BE SUSTAINED IN KOREAN COURTS AND LABELED IT A POLITICAL PIECE COBBLED UP AS "A MEANS OF EXERTING PRESSURE ON KOREA." ARTICLE ALSO REVEALS, QUOTING "A SOURCE," THAT PRESIDENT

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CARTER SENT A LETTER TO PRESIDENT PAK IN LATTER PARTOF AUGUST, LETTER BEING RECEIVED HERE FROM AMB SNEIDER ONLY TWO DAYS BEFORE "LIGHTNING INDICTMENT" OF PAK. HAN'GUK ILBO ARTICLE SPECIFIES SOURCE AS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND ADDS THAT FONMIN PAK TONG-JIN PERSONALLY MET PAK TONG-SON SEPTEMBER 2, IN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE LATTER TO RETURN TO AMERICA.

4. EDITORIALS ON PAK AFFAIR HAVE APPEARED SO FAR IN SEOUL SINMUN AND HAN'GUK ILBO (SEPTEMBER 10) AND KYONGHYANG SINMUN AND TONGA ILBO (SEPTEMBER 12). FIRST THREE ALL MORE OR LESS SUPPORT GOVERNMENT AND HOPE FOR SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT OF ISSUE. TONGA URGED PAK TO GO TO US, BUT SAID ROKG UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO TRANSFER PAK TO USG.

5. AFTERNOON PAPERS SEPTEMBER 12 ALSO ANNOUNCE THAT FONMIN PAK TONG-JIN WILL VISIT US FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS STARTING SEPTEMBER 14 TO DISCUSS PAK TONG-SON CASE AND COMPENSATORY MEASURES FOR TROOP WITH-DRAWAL. ARTICLES STATE FONMIN'S VISIT MIGHT LEAD TO SOME PROGRESS IN PAK AFFAIR. AMONG THE ARTICLES, CHUNGANG ILBO'S IS UNIQUE IN ASSERTING THAT THREE METHODS OF POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO PAK AFFAIR ARE BEING CAUTIOUSLY DISCUSSED BETWEEN KOREA AND US.: A) SPECIAL COUNSEL JAWORSKI MIGHT VISIT KOREA, B) KOREA AND US MIGHT CONDUCT JOINT INVESTIGATION, AND C) KOREA MIGHT CONDUCT "POSITIVE" INVESTIGATION ON BEHALF OF THE US.

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